

Cedarville Elementary School has made great strides in these areas.

Cedarville Elementary School is dedicated to combining quality education with innovative community involvement. By collaborating with community partners in Fort Wayne, Cedarville imparts on students not only the value of a great education, but also how to foster strong relationships for the future. These teaching methods have led Cedarville Elementary School to consistently achieve both an A-rating and a four star designation from the Indiana Department of Education. With hard work, Cedarville Elementary will continue to help build a stronger and better Indiana.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Bradley R. Bakle of Cedarville Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Cedarville Elementary School community, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SPRUNICA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Sprunica Elementary School of Nineveh, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools, with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Sprunica Elementary School has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

In 2014 alone, Sprunica Elementary School's combined ISTEP+ passing rate for English and mathematics was 92 percent for third grade and 93 percent for fourth grade. By giving the student body a variety of tools for early educational development, such as flexibility to pursue their own reading interests and observing the many facets of nature outside of the classroom,

the staff at Sprunica Elementary School provides students with an independent and hands on learning environment. Students can be challenged at their own pace. Beyond the classroom setting, the staff dedicates their time to help the student body develop strategies to become more respectful and aware citizens within the greater town of Nineveh through community service. In addition to its Blue Ribbon School recognition, it is no wonder that Sprunica has also been selected as an Indiana four star school.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Dr. Abbie Suzanne Oliver of Sprunica Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Sprunica Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING MERLE SIDENER GIFTED ACADEMY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I also applaud Merle Sidener Gifted Academy of Indianapolis, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

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Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has a rigorous academic curriculum, and students are provided a different approach to learning through the incorporation of technology. Students are given the opportunity of choice in their academic development—whether they want to learn a foreign language, learn how to play chess, or even take up karate. This approach helps keep the learning process not only fresh but exciting. In addition, the students at Merle Sidener Gifted Academy are taught to be aware of, not only their surroundings, but of global issues that affect people from different cultures.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Tennille Wallace of Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, and I wish the staff and students continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTION OF SHANE CONLAN INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize former Penn State linebacker Shane Conlan for being named to the College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

On the night of January 2, 1987, more than 52 million Americans were introduced to Shane Patrick Conlan, then the 22-year-old cocaptain of the Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lions. This was the brightest of spotlights—the bowl game between No. 2 Penn State and No. 1 Miami still remains the most viewed college football game of all time and Conlan's performance was worthy of the stage. Despite an injured knee and a twisted ankle, Conlan intercepted his Heisman Trophy-winning opponent two times, returning one for 40 yards to set up Penn State's game-winning touchdown. This National Championship victory against a highly favored opponent and the accompanying defensive most valuable player award would be crowning achievements in a storied college career.

Mr. Conlan's origins are much more modest than that memorable night in the desert of Arizona. This son of a State policeman and a grocery store clerk grew up in a western New York town that was too small for even a spotlight. The relative obscurity of Frewsburg almost hid the young Conlan's athletic prowess. Even though he was named Western New York Player of the Year in 1981, Mr. Conlan only had one scholarship offer waiting for him when he graduated high school: Penn State.

In State College Mr. Conlan would evolve from a 6'3", 185 pound, mild-mannered freshman to become one of the most significant contributors to Penn State's cherished legacy as "Linebacker U." A 4-year letterman, 3-year starter, and first-team All-American, Mr. Conlan helped lead a football team that would go 23-to-1 over his final 2 years. In a lasting display of the reverence for Mr. Conlan in Happy Valley, several star linebackers at his alma mater have since donned his No. 31 as a tribute to his success and leadership, while he wore the blue and white. This October 25 his university and fans honored Mr. Conlan once again with a mid game salute by a sold-out crowd of 107,895 at Beaver Stadium.

After graduation from Penn State with a degree in administration of justice, success would follow Mr. Conlan